

From: [Jessica Becker](#)
To: [Cnty 2025 Comp Plan](#); [Bart Catching](#); [Jose Alvarez](#); [Sue Marshall](#); [Karen Bowerman](#); [Michelle Belkot](#); [Glen Yung](#); [Gary Medvigy](#)
Subject: Public comment against current Chelatchie Bluff Mining Overlay and proposed mining overlays in Chelatchie and Yacolt
Date: Monday, October 21, 2024 1:42:43 PM

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Hello,

I am writing today to submit my strong opposition to:

1. Maintaining the current Chelatchic Bluff mining overlay
2. Any of the 2025 Comp Plan site specific applications for surface mining overlays in Chelatchie and along Deer Drive in Yacolt moving forward

It is pretty egregious that the county has maintained the mining overlay on Chelatchie Bluff parcels despite being against state law. As a Clark County taxpayer, I am furious that the actions of the Clark County Council have kept our county in a state of non-compliance that has kept our county from getting state funding. The idea that you would choose out-of-state and big business interests over your tax-paying constituents is sad (amongst other adjectives).

In addition, it is clear to everyone that, despite your lack of environmental review (that put the county in this predicament in the first place), allowing mining in this area would have major detrimental impacts to the area. And yet you chose to open up the 2025 Comp Plan Update process to allow for more surface mining overlay applications through the site specific request process. I find it interesting that you would allow applications through this process that requires no public notification of the surrounding areas until after an environmental review is started...since you have shown an unwillingness to do environmental reviews in the first place, it almost feels intentional that you've allowed this.

Thankfully, despite many broken links on your surface mining page, I have been able to find old maps and decisions that show precedence in denying and removing surface mining overlays in areas that affect waterways like the protected East Fork Lewis River. I've also learned that it was recently discussed in the Railroad Advisory Board Meeting that the gravel in the Chelatchie area is not useable for many of the county's building needs. Since the last update to the mining overlay maps were in 2014, wouldn't that suggest we need a new set of maps 10 years later so we aren't just blindly slapping mining overlays onto random parcels not originally included in those 2014 maps?

The bad news is that the Clark County Council has shown that it is short-sighted and cannot be trusted when it comes to protecting our community in regards to mining. The good news is that SO MANY of us are paying attention and intend to hold you accountable until you do the right thing. As a reminder, the right thing would be to remove the surface mining overlay from Chelatchie Bluff, deny all 2025 Comp Plan update site specific mining overlay applications, and come up with an overall community-supported and environmentally-sound 10+ year plan for meeting the gravel needs of our county. You did it in 2014 (although it does not appear you are following it). You can certainly step back and come up with a plan now.

Thank you,

Jessica Becker, unincorporated Clark County resident